

**AGENDA ITEM 9: 2017 Update of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan and the Draft Supplemental Program Environmental Impact Report**

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**Requested Action: Receive presentation on 2017 Update of Central Valley Flood Protection Plan**

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**Background:** As mandated by the Central Valley Flood Protection Act of 2008, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) prepared the first Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP); the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB), after public hearings and review, adopted it on June 29, 2012. The CVFPP outlines the State's approach to reducing flood risk to areas protected by the State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC), including approximately 380 levee miles in the legal Delta. The adopted plan must be updated every five years. The first update to the CVFPP (2017 CVFPP Update) refines the overall near-term and long-term investment needs established in the 2012 CVFPP, and includes recommendations on policies and financing that aim to support comprehensive flood risk management actions. The draft 2017 CVFPP Update that DWR prepared for the CVFPB was developed in close coordination with State, federal, and regional partners, and informed by a multi-year stakeholder engagement process.

In accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines, DWR has prepared a Draft Supplemental Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the draft 2017 CVFPP Update (<http://cvfpb.ca.gov/cvfpp/>). The draft 2017 CVFPP Update and the Supplemental PEIR were released by DWR for public review on December 30, 2016. CVFPB and DWR will hold joint public hearings on the documents (see schedule at end of this report or online at link above). Comments on the draft 2017 CVFPP Update and on the Supplemental PEIR will be accepted through March 31, 2017.

The Delta Stewardship Council sent comments on the 2012 CVFPP and PEIR and offered encouragement and support for many of its elements. Commission staff are likely to submit "Delta as Place" comments to the Delta Stewardship Council for the draft 2017 CVFPP Update and Supplemental PEIR. Staff will evaluate the draft 2017 CVFPP Update's alignment with the Land Use and Resource Management Plan (LURMP). Staff anticipates giving suggestions on ways that DWR and CVFPB can effectively reach out to those who live, work and recreate in the Delta. Staff suggestions will be consistent with Vision 2030 Strategic Objective O.1 ("Ensure consistent, proactive communication between and among Delta interests and decision makers").

The draft 2017 CVFPP Update describes DWR's and CVFPB's multi-year partnership activities with local and regional flood management agencies, and other stakeholders, and addresses what would be needed to create a robust and better-maintained SPFC. The draft 2017 CVFPP Update includes substantially more detailed descriptions of potential systemwide improvements for areas like Yolo Bypass and Paradise Cut, and large-scale regional management actions such as levee improvements in Stockton. The 2017 CVFPP Update includes a systemwide view of long-term operations and maintenance of the project levees and major facilities across multiple maintaining agencies.

As required by the 2008 Central Valley Flood Protection Act, the 2012 CVFPP considered three alternative approaches to reducing flood risk to the SPFC. Elements from each of these three alternatives were combined in a State Systemwide Investment Approach (SSIA). The estimated cost of the 2012 SSIA was between \$14 to \$17 billion over 20 to 25 years for full CVFPP implementation.

Based on extensive input from local agencies and detailed studies, the updated SSIA is now estimated at \$17 to \$21 billion over the next 30 years. This includes up to \$16.7 billion in one-time capital costs and annual investments of \$120 to \$280 million for on-going operational costs for the next 30 years (Table 4-5 in the draft 2017 CVFPP Update).

Current funding mechanisms at historical spending levels could only provide \$4 to \$5 billion toward CVFPP implementation over the next 30 years. In addition, the existing annual funding shortfall for overall operation and maintenance of the project levees is estimated at \$100 million. Just like the 2012 CVFPP, the draft 2017 CVFPP Update includes recommendations on how to make future flood management investments rather than promoting specific projects. Thus, the draft 2017 CVFPP Update is descriptive and not decisional. Staff will focus on Vision 2030 Strategic Objective L.2 ("Advocate for reliable funding for Delta levee maintenance and improvements") when structuring draft comments on the documents.

Throughout the draft 2017 CVFPP Update, eight policy issues related to flood management are discussed. These issues were identified primarily through partner and stakeholder engagement on the CVFPP since 2012 and other supporting efforts (such as *California's Flood Future*). The issues include Land Use and Floodplain Management; Residual Risk Management; Hydraulic and Ecosystem Baselines and Program Phasing; Operations and Maintenance of the Flood System; Multi-Benefit Projects; Governance and Institutional Support; Coordination with Federal Agencies; and Funding. A few of these are likely to be of particular interest to the Commission because of their overlap with the Delta Protection Commission's Strategic Plan (Vision 2030).

*Land Use and Floodplain Management:* Overall, both the 2012 CVFPP and draft 2017 CVFPP Update encourage land use planning practices that reduce the consequences of flooding. Agricultural conservation measures proposed by the SSIA are also designed to limit conversion of agricultural land to urban uses, and to preserve the robust agricultural economy of the

Central Valley. Commission staff will focus on Vision 2030 Strategic Objective H.1 (“Protect the Delta’s distinctive character and land uses through implementation of the LURMP”) when structuring draft comments on the document.

*Hydraulic and Ecosystem Baselines and Program Phasing:* The draft 2017 CVFPP Update takes the view that the current regulatory framework in California is hindering the ability of flood planners to make phased system-scale improvements. The draft 2017 CVFPP Update includes ways to overcome the permitting challenges for multi-benefit flood management actions. Regulatory reform would take time, but could eventually benefit Delta reclamation districts when they maintain and improve non-project levees, as well as other agencies that build complex projects in areas with highly sensitive species and habitat (i.e., Caltrans, cities, and counties).

*Operations and Maintenance of the Flood System:* Since 2012, DWR has further developed the Levee Vegetation Management Strategy (LVMS). DWR prepared an updated LVMS that is included as Appendix D to the Conservation Strategy. A California Levee Vegetation Research Program working group has formed to develop guidance that will provide DWR’s levee maintainers with a structured, science-based process to manage levee vegetation on a risk-prioritized basis for project levees. This change in strategy will be evaluated in context of the Vision 2030 Strategic Objective E.4 (“Identify and address environmental factors that negatively impact the economic sustainability of the Delta” – “4.2. Advocate for improved beautification of Delta roadways”) and evaluate the potential “Delta as Place” impacts of LVMS work on Delta’s project levees.

*Multi-Benefit Projects:* DWR evaluated ways to integrate multi-benefits with flood system elements in the draft 2017 CVFPP Update. In particular, the document has detailed review of relocating levees to expand bypasses and integrating ecosystem and other improvements where possible into flood-risk-reduction actions. The draft 2017 CVFPP Update includes objectives for the integration of ecosystem restoration elements into project levee improvements as part of a Conservation Strategy, which was a document called for in CVFPB’s Resolution 2012-25. These non-regulatory measurable objectives serve as a framework for evaluating progress toward recovery of native species over time. Contributions to other multi-benefit outcomes for the CVFPP (such as recreation and water supply) are not guided by numerical targets. Commission staff intends to promote the use of DWR’s “good neighbor checklist” as it was developed for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan’s agricultural land stewardship strategy and follow Vision 2030 Strategic Objective A.2 (“Protect agricultural lands from inappropriate development”) when structuring draft comments on the documents.

Draft 2017 CVFPP Update's Public Hearings

Public outreach hearings throughout the Central Valley will provide an opportunity for DWR and CVFPB to present the content of the draft 2017 CVFPP Update and the Draft Supplemental PEIR, and for the public to provide comments on these documents. The public outreach hearing schedule and venues are as follows:

**Wednesday, February 9, 2017, 6 to 8 p.m. – Marysville**

Yuba County Government Center, BOS Chambers  
915 8th Street, Marysville, CA 95901

**Thursday, February 16, 2017, 6 to 8 p.m. – Merced**

Merced Civic Center (Main Hall)  
678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340

**Friday, February 24, 2017, 10 a.m. to Noon – Sacramento**

Sacramento City Hall, City Council Chambers  
915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

\*Regular Business meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. Meeting to be webcast

**Thursday, March 9, 2017, 6 to 8 p.m. – Woodland**

Woodland Community & Senior Center  
2001 East Street, Woodland, CA 95776

**Friday, March 17, 2017, 10 a.m. to Noon – Stockton**

Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center  
2102 E. Earhart Avenue, Suite 100, Stockton, CA 95206